

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 85

AUGUST 16, 2025

THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS





PHOTO BY SHERMAN HOGUE

ABOVE: The Senior Class Join the Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Jackson, Commander Col. Matthew Cannon, and Mrs. Cannon at the Commander's House.

COMMUNITY BACKPACKS, SMILES AND FRESH STARTS: STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON KWAJALEIN

HOURLASS REPORT

By Isaiah Matthews; Communications Specialist, Sr.

As the sun rose over U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll on Friday morning, classrooms lit up not only with tropical light but with a renewed sense of purpose.

Administrators and staff said the new year marks a fresh chapter for the island's close-knit school community, combining local tradition with renewed energy and direction.

"We're using the golden year as our theme this year, and we're really emphasizing the marigold; the support that the marigolds show oth-

er plants. That's kind of our theme for the whole year to work as we all need to work together to maintain this positive community, culture, and to make sure all of our students learn, grow, and achieve at the level they're supposed to," said Jerrod Gertsema, principal of George Seitz Elementary School.

The day began with a morning assembly, where students were welcomed back and introduced to new faculty and staff. Across the school, bulletin boards were decorated with bright messages of encouragement, and classrooms buzzed with first-day activities. Teachers, many of whom spent weeks prepar-

ing, said they were eager to begin building relationships and setting a positive tone for the year ahead.

"Our big goal here this year is to ensure that every student feels welcome and is showing growth in their academic and [their ability to] work with one another, because we always need somebody to lean on," said Gertsema.

While the school continues to integrate updated curriculum and new learning technologies, educators emphasized that relationships remain at the heart of their work.

"We are all a community, we're here to support each

other, we take care of each other," said Gertsema. "Kwajalein is a great place to be, with our school community, it's just a wonderful place to serve and help the community and help out to support our students and our staff."

For parents, the day brought a blend of pride and emotion. Some lingered outside classrooms, offering words of encouragement. Others walked away quickly, trusting their children were in good hands. For SFC Smith, his daughter Nora began her first day of kindergarten.

"The staff in the school community has been nothing but supportive for our family,

and we look forward to our daughter's education here," said SFC Nathaniel Smith, a Provost Sergeant with U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll. "It's a great place for our children to learn and grow in such a small, tight-knit community where everyone helps each other out, and everyone can feel safe."

The excitement for the students returning and their education extended beyond George Seitz Elementary School.

"I am most excited for the opportunities in front of the students," said Dr. Matthew Gerber, the principal of Kwajalein Junior/ Senior School.

"We have such a great group of children. I am really excited about what they will accomplish; just being a part of their story and education."

Despite the tropical heat and back-to-school nerves, the atmosphere remained optimistic and focused on the future.

"We're so excited to start a new school year, and we've heard amazing things about our new kids, and it's going to be one of our best years yet," said Dr. Amy Blakey, School Superintendent. X



PHOTO BY ISAIAH MATTHEW



IT'S KITTEN SEASON

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Foster Parents also wanted!

Call or Email us your information if you would like to become a Kwaj Cat foster parent!

kwajvetclinic@acuityinternational.com



PHOTOS BY ISAIAH MATTHEW



RANGE OPERATION ANNOUNCEMENT

RONALD REAGAN BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE TEST SITE

A RANGE OPERATION IS SCHEDULED FOR 22-26 AUGUST 2025. DAILY CAUTION TIMES ARE 4:00 P.M. (1600) THROUGH 10:00 P.M. (2200) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS OPERATION.

DURING OPERATIONS, NOTICE TO MARINERS (NOTMAR) and NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) CAUTION AREAS WILL EXTEND INTO THE OPEN OCEAN NEAR THE KWAJALEIN ATOLL AND SURROUNDING AREAS.

THE MID-ATOLL CORRIDOR WILL BE CLOSED FROM 1601 HOURS, 11 AUGUST 2025 THROUGH ACTIVITY COMPLETION. THE CAUTION AREA EXTENDS FROM THE SURFACE TO UNLIMITED ALTITUDE.

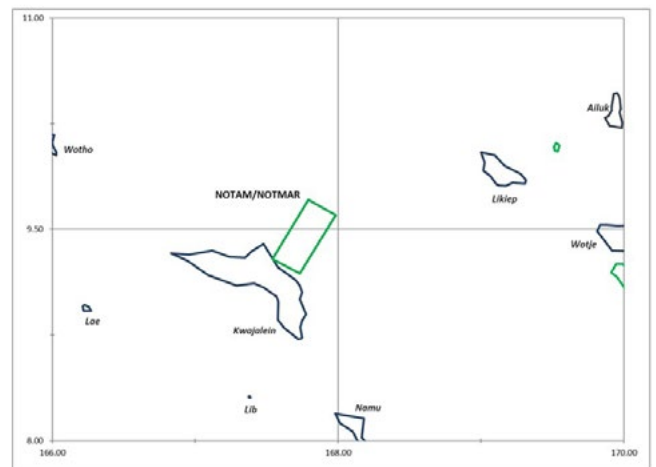
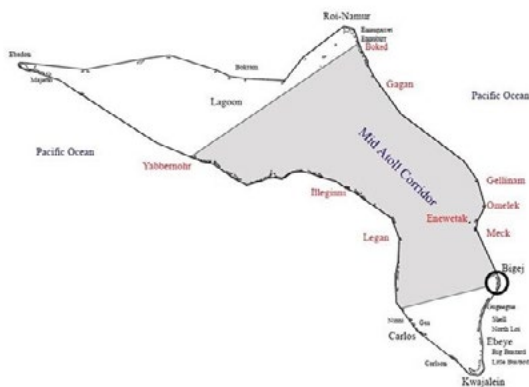
SEE THE HOURGLASS AND ROLLER DATED 16 AUGUST FOR A MAP OF THE CLOSED AREAS. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO REAGAN TEST SITE (RTS) MISSION SAFETY OFFICE AT (808) 580-1681.

JUON IEN KOKEMELMEL ENAJ KOMAN ILO RAN KO 22-26 AUGUST 2025. AWA KO REKAUWOTOTA EJ JEN 4:00PM JOTA LOK NAN 10:00PM IN JOTA.

ILO IEN KOMELMEL, ILO KILAN KARONG NAN MARINERS (NOTMAR) IM AIRMEN (NOTAM), JIKIN KAUWATATA KEIN RENAJ LAPLAK IM KITBUUJ MALO ILO TURIN AILIN IN IM MALO KO TURIN BELAAK IN AILIN IN BAREINWOT.

ENE KO ILO IOLAP IN AEON IN (MID-ATOLL CORRIDOR) RENAJ KILOK JEN 4:01PM AWA ELKIN RAELEP ILO JONOUL JUON (11) RAN IN AUGUST 2025 NAN NE EDELOK KOKEMELMEL KEIN.

LALE HOURGLASS IM ROLLER EO 16 RAN IN AUGUST NAN AM LALE IA KO REJ KILOK. NE EWOR AM KAJITOK JOUJ IM CALL E LOK KWAJALEIN RANGE SAFETY OPIJA RO ILO (808) 580-1681.



Front Cover: First Day of School by Isaiah Matthews

Back Cover: Palms Pink Sky by Melissa Dethlefsen

The Kwajalein Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army's 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944. The Kwajalein Hourglass is an authorized publication for military personnel, federal employees, contractor workers and their families assigned to U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll.

Contents of the Hourglass are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or USAG-KA. It is published Saturdays in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.
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Garrison Commander.....Col. Matthew Cannon
Garrison CSM.....Command Sgt. Maj. Stanley Jackson
Public Affairs Officer.....Sherman Hogue
Editor.....Muhammad Rasheed
Communications Specialist, Sr.....Isaiah Matthews
Communications Specialist.....Stephen Elson
Story Writer.....Annette Monk
Media Capture.....Melissa Dethlefsen
Story Writer.....Christy Wagnon



PHOTOS BY SHERMAN HOGUE

COMMUNITY GUIDING HAND: HAND-PAINTED SCHOOL MURALS

HOURLASS REPORT

By Sherman Hogue,
USAKA-PAO

On your way back towards housing from Emon beach you may have noticed an add-on to the Kwajalein Jr./Sr High School building. A Spartan helmet like no other, symbolism flowing through the warrior helmet like the currents that flow through the Marshall Islands. It is an impressive sight, and I wondered who had painted the new "Ruainene Tok Non" (welcome to) sign. Then on my way down Ocean View, headed to work, I saw her.....brush in hand, in the soft morning sunlight at it again, this time on the George Seitz Elementary school (GSES). I pulled a hard right turn to meet the

artist responsible for these magnificent murals.

Oanh P. Letter is her name, an assistant teacher/librarian working at the Kwajalein Jr./Sr. High School is here on Kwajalein Atoll with her husband Luke Letter, an engineer with MIT. The two have been on Kwajalein for three years. "It has been such a great home for us, and such a great community. I feel so lucky to be here every day," Oanh stated about their time here on Kwajalein.

I asked how the project for the Murals came to light and Oanh told me "A bit over a year ago, Dr. Gerber, the principal of the HS asked me if I

could design a new logo for the HS as the old logo we used ran into copy right problem. It was something that came from a place of inspiration based on an old Spartan design. I took the liberty to add some Marshallese motifs and symbols unique to culture of the people here. I'd like to capture as many symbols as I could in each logo."

And wow has she amazingly intertwined the Marshallese culture through the paintings. "On the Spartan logo, you could clearly see the stick chart on the face, the outriggers, the shark fins (for Shark sanctuary), the 24 triangles representing the 24 districts of the RMI, the plumeria, the



shape of the RMI on the nose, the 13 stars for the original 13 states of the US, the sun rays behind the clouds, the small shape of Kwajalein at the very end.

The mascot of the GSES is the dolphin blue and white. Since it's a part of the Kwajalein school system, I'd like to design the dolphin with similar symbols like the new Spartan logo. You could see the small map of Kwajalein with the plumeria, triangles on the body of the dolphin, stick charts on the fins, and the flag of the RMI on the face of the dolphin."

I was very surprised when Oanh told me "Actually, the high school mural was my first attempt, and the George Seitz mural was my 2nd one". Grant it she has been painting for around 13 years stating "I started my first painting 13 years ago after I happened to see Bob Ross on TV. I remember he said anyone could paint. I felt very inspired and decided that I wanted to paint. I usually do landscapes, but I also painted a couple of portrait paintings of my children.

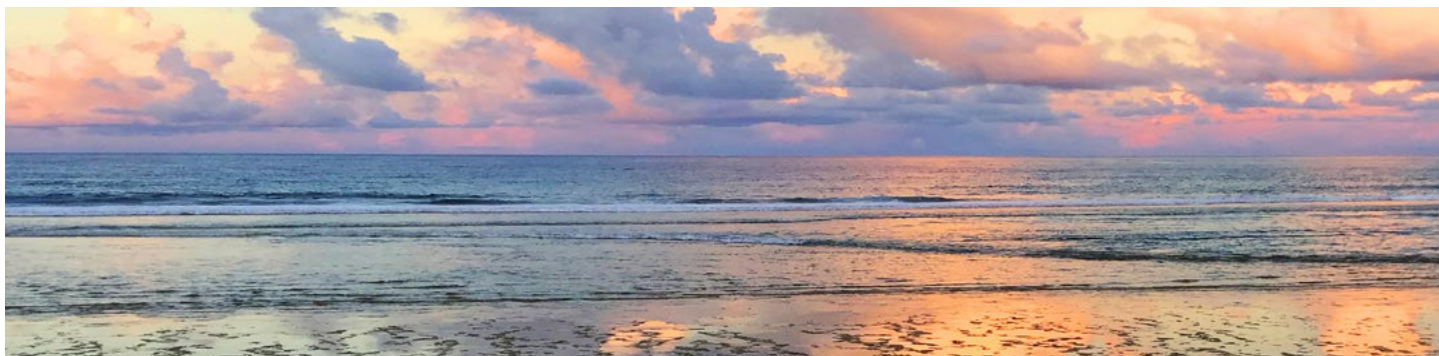
Oanh told me that what

she likes best about the paintings is "Kwaj is a special place for me, and I've loved being a part of the school community. I have a special relationship with the kids and people here. In life, I think the best we can all hope for is to do something we love doing and have the people we care about impacted in a positive way. I will always feel that pride when I see the mural, and I am thrilled that I was given the opportunity to do it.

What painting is next? "It's so beautiful here, and there are so many inspirations for my next paintings.

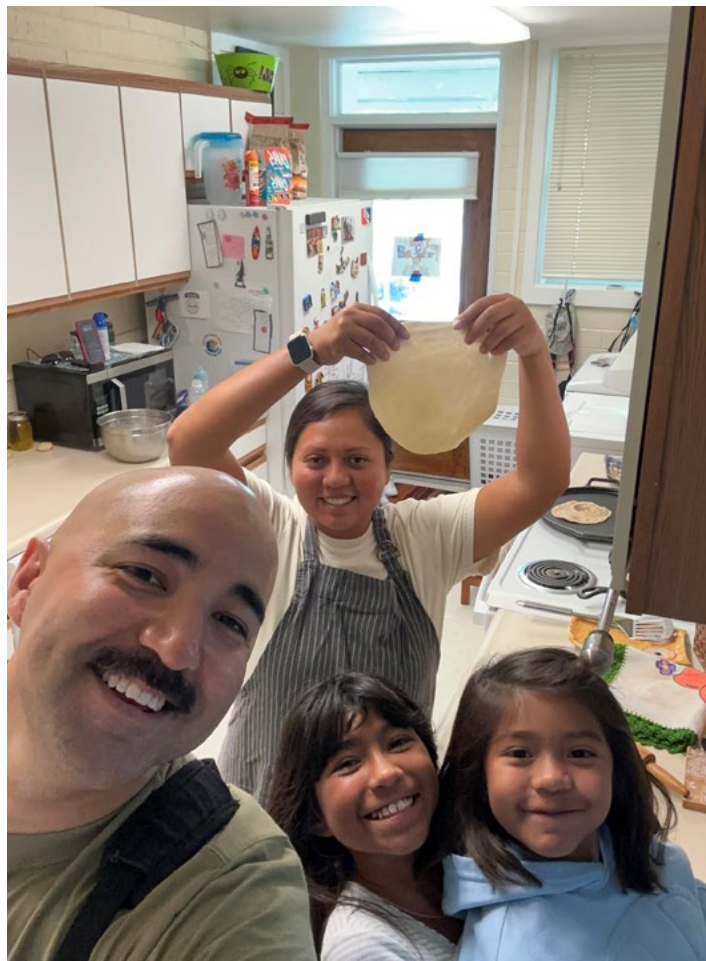
I don't have an exact piece in mind yet, but I think the next painting would be a place on Roi (if I could find some time to do it)."

Whatever Oanh's next painting is I hope I get to see it and if you happen to be going past one of the schools and have not seen the murals yet stop for a moment and take a look at them, they truly are great works of art that we will get to enjoy for many years. X





PHOTOS BY CW3 SILVESTRE ARROYO



COMMUNITY

TORTILLAS, TRADITIONS, AND THE THREAD OF FAMILY

HOURLASS REPORT

By Annette Monk, Information Management Associate

A heartfelt look at how one military family keeps culture alive through homemade tortillas and shared time around the table.

In the Arroyo household, family traditions are measured in memories, moments, and the soft, familiar texture of handmade tortillas warm out of the pan.

For Silvestre Arroyo—a dedicated military husband and father—tradition isn't just something you honor during the holidays. It's a living, breathing part of his family's everyday life. This month, Silvestre and his wife, Joyce, will celebrate 14 years of marriage, a journey that's been

shaped by love, resilience, and a deep appreciation for the values passed down from their mothers' kitchens.

Between their three children—a 13-year-old son, Matthew and two daughters, Madalynn and Michaela, ages 10 and 7—there's constant motion in the house. But there are also still, grounding moments where the kids are given guidance and structure to shape their future. One of those moments is when the family gathers around the table, often with tortillas made by hand, just as Silvestre's mother has done for decades. There's even a family text group where new recipe ideas are often shared and planned as family activities.

"My mother has been making tortillas since she was six years old," Silvestre says with pride. Now 73, she continues to make them, teaching not just technique, but tradition—kneading stories, strength, and culture into every batch. She passed this knowledge on to Silvestre, who now shares the experience with his own family, creating a link across generations that's as nourishing emotionally as it is physically.

Joyce's mother, too, was an avid cook. With both sides of the family steeped in the rhythms of home cooking, food has become more than a daily routine—it's become a ritual of remembrance and reconnection. Making torti-

llas by hand is one of those rituals, rooted in love, patience, and an understanding that something as simple as shared bread can carry the weight of heritage.

As a military family, the Arroyos understand the importance of being intentional about their time together. Schedules shift. Assignments come and go. But family traditions are constants—especially those formed in the kitchen and carried to the dinner table.

"The table is where we slow down," Silvestre says. "Where we reconnect, share our days, and remember where we come from."

Silvestre has taken a special role in the tortilla-making

process—one that's become his signature at family gatherings. "I'm always in charge of making the dough, and everyone compliments how soft it turns out," he says, smiling. "They'll say, 'You've got the magic touch!' I take pride in that. It's a part of me now."

With practiced hands and quiet focus, he rolls out each tortilla, just like in the photo snapped in his own kitchen. His skill, honed over years of practice, is not just about texture—it's a reflection of his connection to his roots, and a point of pride passed from one generation to the next.

And the best reviews? They come straight from home.

"Dad's tortillas are the best," says 10-year-old Madalynn. "So much better than the ones at the grocery store that have a weird aftertaste."

"Yeah," adds 7-year-old Michaela with a scrunched-up face, "they taste disgusting... Ewww!"

In a world that moves fast, preserving family traditions—like making tortillas—is a powerful act. It

reinforces identity. It creates a sense of home no matter where you are. And for the Arroyos, it ensures that their children grow up with more than just good food. They grow up with roots.

From the hands of a 6-year-old girl in a kitchen decades ago, to a 73-year-old grandmother still sharing her wisdom, to a father teaching his own children how to shape and press tortillas—the thread of family holds strong. And it continues, one tortilla at a time.

RECIPE

Ingredients:

- 1,000 grams of all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons of salt
- 1 teaspoon of baking powder
- 160 grams of shortening
- 640 milliliters (ml) of water

Instructions:

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, salt, and baking powder. Stir until the



Kwajalein Island Trash & Recycling

Residential Trash Collection	480-1760
Yard Vegetation Collection	480-1890
Hazardous Waste Pickup Line	480-8858



TRASH & RECYCLING PICKUP SCHEDULE

The Green Residential TRASH receptacles are collected every **Tuesday and Friday**.

The blue RECYCLE bins are also collected every **Tuesday and Friday**.

The large black General Solid Waste Community Containers are emptied on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Safety First! Please keep any curious children away from the Compactor Truck as it feeds contents into the truck.

Recyclable materials are also collected by both *solid waste* and *horizontal maintenance personnel*, in conjunction with general trash collection. Currently the island only recycles glass, aluminum, metal, and bulk organic materials. **Cardboard and plastics are not recycled materials on Kwajalein.** These items should be placed into the general trash stream for disposal/incineration.



Residential users will be given a **green trash** receptacle and a smaller **blue receptacle** for recyclable materials. It is requested that residences place their recyclable items into the blue containers, and stack larger materials next to the bins. Lawn clippings and leaves should be bagged and placed next to bins. Palm fronds and coconuts should also be stacked up next to the bins for removal by horizontal maintenance personnel.

ingredients are well mixed.

2. Cut the shortening into the dry ingredients using a pastry blender or two knives. Continue cutting the shortening into the flour until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

3. Gradually add the hot water to the flour mixture, stirring with a wooden spoon until a soft dough forms. The dough should be slightly sticky to the touch.

4. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead it for 5-10 minutes, or until it is smooth and elastic.

5. Place the dough in a large plastic bag or cover it with a damp cloth and let it rest for 20-30 minutes. This will allow the gluten in the dough to relax, making it easier to roll out.

6. After the dough has rested, divide it into 45-50 gram portions and roll each portion into a ball. You should have approximately 30 balls of dough.

7. Roll out each ball of dough into a thin circle, using

a rolling pin or tortilla press. If using a rolling pin, lightly flour the surface to prevent the dough from sticking. If using a tortilla press, place the ball of dough between two sheets of plastic wrap to keep it from sticking to the press.

8. Cook the tortillas on a hot, dry griddle or skillet for about 30-60 seconds on each side, or until they are lightly browned and puffed.

9. Transfer the cooked tortillas to a plate lined with a clean kitchen towel and cover them with another towel to keep them warm and moist.

10. Serve the tortillas warm, or store them in a plastic bag or airtight container for later use.

This recipe will yield approximately 30 tortillas, depending on the size of each tortilla. Homemade tortillas are a delicious and versatile addition to any meal.

Enjoy! ❧





PHOTOS BY DIANA MOSENCE

COMMUNITY ACUITY INTERNATIONAL DEMONSTRATES TSUNAMI-READY EMERGENCY RESPONSE ON KWAJALEIN

HOURLASS REPORT

By Christy Wagon, CYS
Deputy Director

In response to a tsunami bulletin issued for the Marshall Islands following a powerful 8.8 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Kamchatka, Russia, Kwajalein Hospital mobilized emergency protocols with precision and professionalism.

While experts confirmed that Kwajalein Atoll's steep reef drop-off and surrounding ocean depths mitigate the likelihood of devastating wave impact, the hospital took no chances—initiating a full-scale mass casualty response to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

The National Weather Station's bulletin projected wave activity ranging from 0.3 to 1

meter (up to 3.3 feet) above tidal levels. Though the island's natural geography lowers risk, the potential for up to 6.5 feet of sea-level rise prompted immediate action.

At the center of the response was Kwajalein Hospital, led by Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Coordinator Christina Leder, who activated the hospital's rehearsed MCI plan without hesitation. "Efficiency and coordination are everything in an MCI," said Leder. "The moment the call goes out, we move together."

Within an hour, all essential equipment was relocated to the second floor, the emergency room was transferred upstairs in case of flooding, the upstairs conference room was converted into a storage and staging area, non-emer-



gent appointments were canceled to ensure full staffing, and all hospital personnel, including TDY staff, reported for duty—bringing changes of clothes and passports in accordance with readiness protocols.

“This team moved the entire hospital into emergency configuration in about an hour. I had goosebumps watching it. I’m incredibly proud of our team,” said Hospital Business Administrator Diana Mosenge. “I also want to acknowledge the exemplary leadership of Mike Reusse, Critical Care Flight Nurse, he was a steady and decisive presence throughout the response.”

Nurse Manager Savanna Gastineau added, “This is what we train for. We hold mass casualty drills two times a year with internal training quarterly, and it showed today. Everyone stepped in, even people who’ve never done this before. Volunteers showed up. It was a true team effort.”

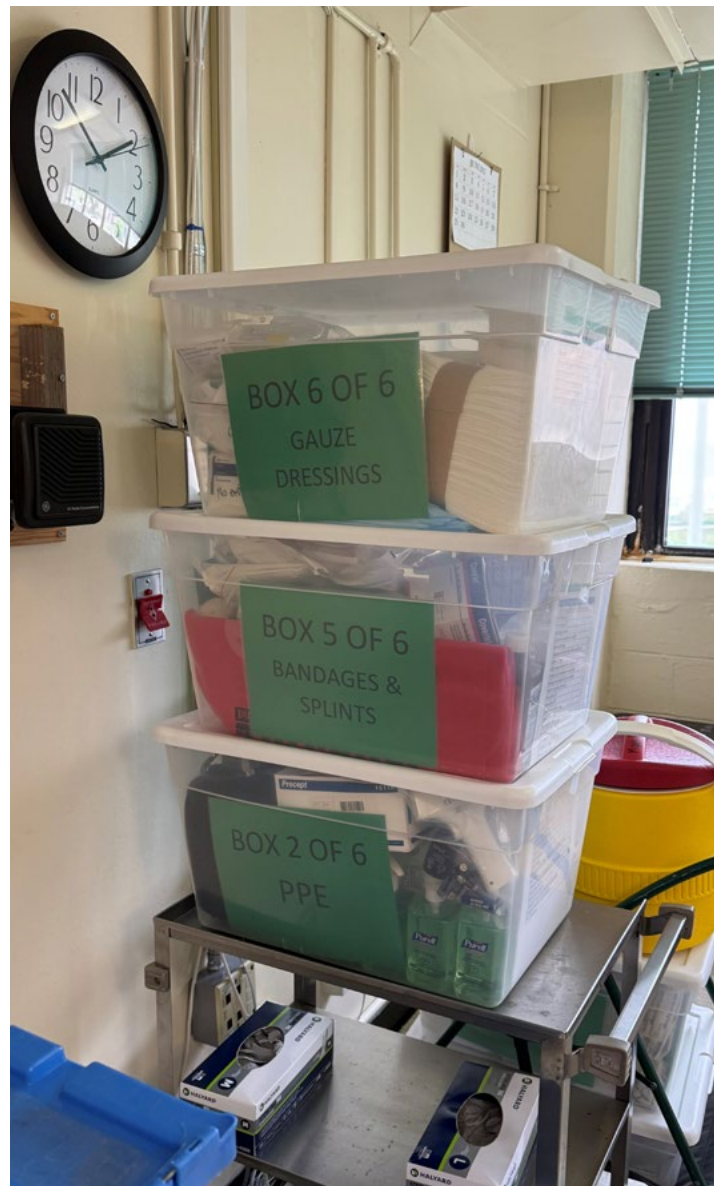
Behind the scenes, Hospital Administrator Carrie Jimenez steadily kept leadership, and USAG-KA apprised of operations step-by-step, ensuring complete situational awareness across agencies.

Hospital leadership reported 100% staff turnout via the emergency call tree—an “all-hands-on-deck” moment, with team members returning from scheduled leave and even off-island travel.

Should casualties have arrived, the hospital was prepared to implement a triage system—green for non-urgent, yellow for urgent, and red for critical emergencies. In tsunami scenarios, red cases typically involve drowning or trauma from debris, and the team was ready to manage them.

“This is a remote island,” said Leder. “Our resources are limited, but our people are resourceful. When lives are on the line, this team shows up. Every time.”

Ultimately, the tsunami warning passed without incident. No wave activity reached the atoll, and daily life resumed. But the response by the hospital team reinforced the island’s capability to respond swiftly and professionally in moments of uncertainty—transforming a warning into a powerful demonstration of readiness. ▽





Even though we are in a remote location that is difficult to get to, we still need to be vigilant and aware of our surroundings here at our home on Kwajalein Atoll.

August 2025 marks the sixteenth year of dedicated focus on Antiterrorism Awareness Month, a critical period for reinforcing the security of our Army communities.

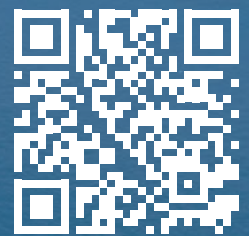
Our capacity to deter adversaries and prevail in any operational environment - from competitive engagement to large-scale combat - hinges on the proactive security posture of every USARPAC team member.

Through collective vigilance and decisive action, we will reinforce our defensive posture and decisively "Get in Position to Compete, Fight, and Win."

**"If you See Something,
Say Something"**

Call USAKA Law Enforcement at 480-4445

FOLLOW US AT THESE LOCATIONS



Click QR Code to jump to social page

Kwajalein



MIA Project

NEVER FORGET.

<https://kwajaleinmiaproject.us/>

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

Submit Announcements to the Roller Channel and The Kwajalein Hourglass

OPEN CALL FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS
The island community is invited to submit listings for events and for sale items; announcements; department trainings; safety updates; public service messages; and thank-you messages.

Preparing Your Message

For questions about your messaging, please reach out to the USAG-KA Public Affairs Office at 480-4848.

Ads should always include a point of contact, phone number and/or email address.

Private parties, fundraisers and events requesting and/or accepting donations are typically not allowed for publication per AR 360-1. Fundraisers and support activities for private and schools-based organizations, scouting groups, civic clubs and other listings may be subject to a legal counsel review to determine their eligibility for publication.

Formatting Your Listings

It is recommended that graphical adver-

tisements and announcements intended for the Hourglass and the AFN Roller Channel be formatted as PowerPoint slides.

Graphic designers are asked to maintain a generous margin (.75-1-inch) around all sides and to size fonts no smaller than pt. 20.

If your Roller Channel advertisement requires a special expiration date, please note this for the Roller team in the body of your message.

Deadlines for Submissions

Send advertisements for the Kwajalein Hourglass and the AFN Roller Channel to kwajaleinhourglass@gov2x.com on Wednesdays by close of business/Thursday morning.

Roller Channel ads are accepted on a rolling basis by 4 p.m. for a mid-week and late-week update. Ads received after 4 p.m. will be loaded in the next update. Please ensure you submit ads in good time to ensure timely upload.

For more information, reach out to the USAG-KA Command team through the USAG-KA Facebook page.



Contact the USAG-KA Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention Victim Advocate

Sergeant First Class Darrius Hodge
SHARP Victim Advocate

Work: 480-1419

USAG-KA SHARP Pager:

808-580-3241

DOD SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247



HELP WANTED

For employment with contractors within the U.S. Army Garrison - Kwajalein Atoll please check contractor company websites for employment opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AFH Construction Is Ongoing. Nan, Inc. Construction is scheduled to commence the telecommunication scope of work for the Kwajalein Army Family Housing project in our community. Residents and commuters should be aware of possible changes in traffic patterns and to plan their routes accordingly. Nan, Inc. Construction is committed to minimizing any inconveniences, and we will strive to ensure a smooth and efficient construction process.

ArMA. Log in to ArMa, the Army Maintenance Application, to report issues for all buildings maintained by the Department of Public Works. Contact Public Works at 480-3550.

CAC Office. Before your visit to the Common Access Card Office, ensure all paperwork is completed by your human resources representative before making an appointment. Bring two forms of government-issued IDs with you. Walk-in appointments are welcome, but there may be a wait. CAC Office Hours, Bldg. 835, are Tuesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; (Lunch: noon - 1 p.m.). Call 480-8496.

Demolition at the Capt. Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility. Phase three of the Zamperini DFAC demo has begun and is projected to be finished March 2026 for the dining and serving area. Be careful around the dining facility during the phases.

Do Not Take Cultural Artifacts. It is illegal to remove cultural resources from the atoll. This includes any protected species, unexploded ordnance, WWII-era artifacts and ancient Marshallese artifacts. These resources are protected under U.S. federal and RMI law. Contact the Kwajalein Archaeology Office at 480-8867.

Emergency Management. Visit the USAG-KA Emergency Management webpage, <https://home.army.mil/kwajalein/index.php/my-fort/EM>; 2) Click on "Mass Notification"; 3) Follow the registration instructions.

E-Wareness: It is each driver's responsibility to ensure vehicles are not leaking fluids other than air conditioning condensate. Call 911 to report spills and arrange with automotive for routine maintenance. Please call Environmental at 480-0722 with questions. Ej an ri-kator

eo eddo non lolorjake bwe wa eo ejjab leak jabdwot oil ijelak in drennin air condition eo jen wa eo. Ne elon jabdwot leak/lutok in oil jen wa eo, Kiir 911 non report- e lutok eo. Ak kiir Environmental ilo 480-0722 non kajitok.

Fire Safety Tips. Some pets are chewers. Watch pets to make sure they don't chew through electrical cords. Pets are curious. They may bump into, turn on, or knock over cooking equipment. Keep pets away from stoves and countertops. Make sure pets are included in your family's fire evacuation plan. Build an evacuation kit for each pet in your household.

Flights. Please note that all flights are subject to change. For the latest update on your flights on United, ATI or Air Marshall Islands: ATI: 480-2169; AMI: 480-3469; United: 480-4852 or 1-800-UNITED1; Air Terminal Services: 480-2660; Flight Information Recording: 480-3589

UA Schedule Effective Now: Monday and Friday—UA 155 (HNL); Check-in 2 – 4:50 p.m.; Wednesday—UA 133 (HNL); Check-in 2 – 4:15 p.m.; Tuesday and Saturday—UA 154 (GUM); Check-in 10:45 – 11:15 a.m.

FlyRoi Reservations. To schedule reservations and for correspondence related to flights, email LCVKwajaleinFlyRoi@versar.com.

How to dress in the RMI. Out of respect for the Marshallese culture, residents are asked to dress appropriately when visiting Ebeye, Third Island, or anywhere within Kwajalein Atoll. Women should wear clothing to cover shoulders and knees. None are permitted to wear shorts when visiting churches on Ebeye. Men should wear long slacks to church.

Kwaj Small Boat Marina hours are 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday through Monday, and on holidays, excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas. Morn-

ing boat reservation times are from 7:30 a.m. – noon. Afternoon boat reservations are from 1 – 5 p.m.

Not Feeling Well? Call 480-2223 to make an appointment for a COVID-19 test, Tuesday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. If you are not feeling well, please wear a mask when you are around others in the community.

Operational Security. See something, say something. All employees on USAG-KA are required to receive annual Threat Awareness and Reporting Program training provided by KRO; Reporting: Report suspicious activities to the Kwajalein Resident Office at 480-9859/1293/8006 at Bldg. 1163.

PCS & Vacation Tips. Notify the post office before leaving for 30 days or PCS'ing. Per DOD 4525.6-M, mail is only allowed to be held for 30 days with or without prior notice. Mail is considered unclaimed on day 31 and will be returned to the sender. Email the post office to authorize pick up for your mail and packages. When PCS'ing, provide a forwarding address. Contact James Smith with questions at 480-3461 and james.e.smith2295@army.mil.

Salon Walk-Ins. Surfside Salon Walk-In Appointments are available on Fridays from 1:30 - 6 p.m.

Smoking. USAG-KA, smoking is permitted in designated smoking areas only. Smoking and cigarette butt receptacles must be at least 50 feet from the entrance of facilities.

Taxi Service. Call 480-TAXI (8294) or 3341 to book your ride at least 24 hours in advance of check-in time.

Millican Family Pool Hours. Closed for cleaning on Thursdays. Open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and Mondays.

The NEC Testing Center Is Open to the Community - Giving you the head start you need to thrive! - Open Tuesday through Saturday by appointment
Authorized Pearson VUE Test Center. Schedule A test Today!
NEC testing Center, 480-4344, FN 1008-131
ACUITY International

Kwajalein / Roi Namur Licensing
Classes on Kwajalein are every Wednesday @0900 Marshallese @1245 Expats (by appointment only as class side is limited)
Classes are in Bldg. 856 Rm 101, Vehicle Maintenance Compound
Roi classes every 2nd Friday in Bldg. C, timed based on flight schedule
No registration needed for Roi classes.
To register, send email to either of the following:
Audrey.Hughes@gov2x.com
Wilson.Kaisha@gov2x.com
...or stop by Bldg. 856, Rm 101



Kwaj Grief Support Group

The journey through grief can feel overwhelming, especially when faced alone. Our **Grief Support Group** offers a safe, understanding space for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. Here, you can share your story, listen to others who are walking a similar path, and find comfort in knowing you are not alone.



Registration Info

Register open now through for the fall session

Session runs **Sept 8th -Dec 8th 2025**

Day/time: **Monday evenings 6 to 7:30 pm**

Location: George Seitz Elementary School~ **Coconut Room**

Email: Amy Blakey blakeya@kwajaleinschools.org



**American
Red Cross**

Service to the Armed Forces

Volunteer Opportunity at Kwajalein Atoll

Join the American Red Cross and help bring our Services and Programs to the Kwajalein Atoll community!

Online & Virtual Training Provided

No experience needed!

We provide all necessary training. Just bring your passion and commitment to helping others!

Contact **Alana Wilson** at alana.wilson@redcross.org

Let's work together to build a more prepared and resilient community.



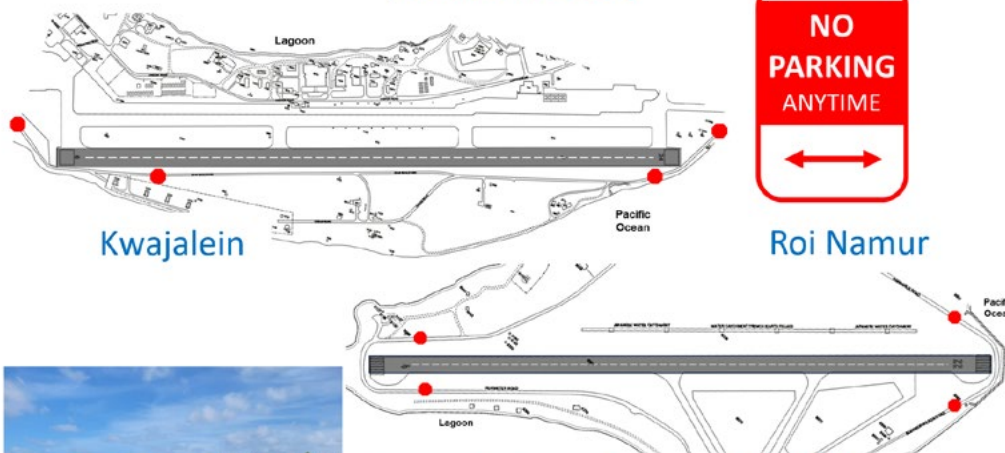
KWAJALEIN & ROI NAMUR,

STOP FOR AIRCRAFT!!



Please remember to stop and look both ways for aircraft on:
Zeus Blvd., Ocean Rd., Perimeter Rd., Pandanus Rd., Eleanor
Wilson Rd.

**If aircraft are on approach or taking off, you must hold your
position and wait!**



**Stop at designated signs and look for aircraft
landing or taking off. If you see an aircraft, hold
your position at the stop sign and wait until the
aircraft has landed or departed before moving.**



FREE Blood Pressure Checks!

Kwajalein Hospital is offering BP Checks!

Help us bring awareness and education to the community!

Outside the DFAC

Date: Every 3rd Wednesday of the
month

starting August 20th

Time: 1630 to 1800



Why it matters:

High blood pressure is the #1 risk factor for strokes
Let's take care of ourselves and each other!

POWER OUTAGE NOTICE

FY21 Kwajalein Army Family Housing Construction

Project: FY21 Kwajalein Army Housing Construction

Nan, Inc. construction company, has begun mobilization and preliminary activities for the upcoming power tie-in works from existing power distribution for the FY21 Kwajalein Army Family Housing project. **ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 THERE WILL BE A THREE HOUR CONTINUOUS POWER OUTAGE 2230-0130H** The outage will affect the areas highlighted on the map.

Nan, Inc. will secure each area with barriers and safety signage. For inquiries, please contact the project team at 480-2548. Nan, Inc. appreciates the support and cooperation of the community for this trans formative construction project.

Mahalo,

Nan, Inc.



**OPSEC
IS NOT
RETROACTIVE.**

**THINK BEFORE
YOU SHARE
INFORMATION.
ONLINE AND OFFLINE.**



Like and share @USArmyOPSEC

C
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Now Showing at the Yuk Theater

Saturday, August 2
"Sonic The Hedgehog 3" (2024)
(PG) 110 min.

Sunday, August 3
"The Terminator" (1984)
(R) 107 min.

Saturday, August 9
"Mufasa: The Lion King" (2024)
(PG) 118 min.

Sunday, August 10
"A Few Good Men" (1992)
(R) 138 min.

Saturday, August 16
"Shrek Forever After" (2010)
(PG) 93 min.

Sunday, August 17
"A Complete Unknown" (2024)
(R) 161 min.

Saturday, August 23
"Sing 2" (2021)
(PG) 110 min.

Sunday, August 24
"Nosferatu" (2024)
(R) 132 min.

Saturday, August 30
"A League of Their Own" (1992)
(PG) 128 min.

All showtimes start at 7:30 p.m.

E-wareness: Trimming and Removal of Vegetation

A *Vegetation Trimming and Removal Permit* is required for the following actions:

- Complete removal of any established vegetation.
- Major trimming of vegetation, defined as greater than 20% of each plant/tree volume.

Vegetation permits are obtained through the V2X Environmental Department by calling 480-0722.

Removal of root balls below six inches requires an approved Dig Permit from the Service Desk (480-3550).

Melim in "Vegetation Trimming & Removal" Ej aikuj wor/lon:

- Komakut jabdewot wut (i.e. wojke, ak mar)
- Mwijmwij jen wut, kallikar an laplok jen 20% in wut kein kenono kaki ilon

Komakut wut jen okar in 6-inch mwilal lok ej aikuj wor an "Dig Permit". Kur lok Service Dest ilo (480-3550) non bok Dig Permit.

Kur lok V2X Environmental ilo (480-0722) non melele ko relaplok.



UV Safety Awareness Month — Protect Your Vision This July!

July is UV Safety Awareness Month, and with Kwajalein's strong sunbeams at their peak, safeguarding your eyes against UV exposure is more important than ever. Our trusted eye doctor, Dr. Will Black, answers KEY questions to help you keep your vision healthy year round.

1. How does UV exposure affect long-term eye health, and what conditions can it cause or worsen?

Long-term UV exposure accelerates aging and damage to critical eye structures. Over time, it can lead to:

- **Cataracts** (clouding of the lens)
- **Macular degeneration** (progressive loss of central vision)
- **Pterygium** (a growth on the cornea, "surfer's eye")
- **Photokeratitis** (corneal "sunburn," causing pain, redness, and swelling)
- Potentially **Cancers** of the eyelid and surrounding skin.

Even brief, intense UV exposure—like glare off reflected water—can cause acute damage, which contributes to cumulative harms.

2. What are the most effective ways to protect our eyes from UV damage, especially in sunny or tropical environments?

To minimize UV exposure:

- **Wear sunglasses rated "100% UV" or UV 400**, blocking UVA & UVB up to 400 nm.
- **Choose wraparound or large-frame styles** to protect against side UV rays and protect surrounding skin.
- **Add a wide-brimmed hat**—this can cut UV around your eyes by ~50%
- **Avoid peak sun hours** (10 a.m.–4 p.m.) and monitor UV index levels above 4!
- **Evaluate your sunglasses** if they are older, scratched, or if you are unsure of their UV protection and proper fit.

Bonus: Consider **polarized lenses** for glare-heavy activities! Remember, they also must also be 100% UV protective in addition to the polarization.

3. Are all sunglasses equally protective, or should we look for specific features or certifications when choosing UV-blocking eyewear?

Not all sunglasses offer the same level of protection. When choosing:

- Look for labels stating "100% UV protection" or "UV 400."
- Lens tint darkness does not equal UV safety—always check the UV rating.
- Inspect optical quality: no distortions—check tile lines through your lenses.
- Polycarbonate lenses offer impact resistance ideal for active wear.

Eyes Matter. Eyecare Matters – Make UV Protection a Daily Habit

Special Offers at Kwaj Eyecare (July 29 – August 19, 2025)

- Get a comprehensive eye health exam.
- Has your current eyewear evaluated for UV protection?
- Discuss personalized recommendations for UV eye protection.
 - o Prescription and non-prescription options available.

Schedule an Exam online: www.kwajeyes.com **or call** the Kwajalein Hospital at 480 2223.

Protecting your eyes today means healthier vision for tomorrow. Enjoy Kwaj safely!

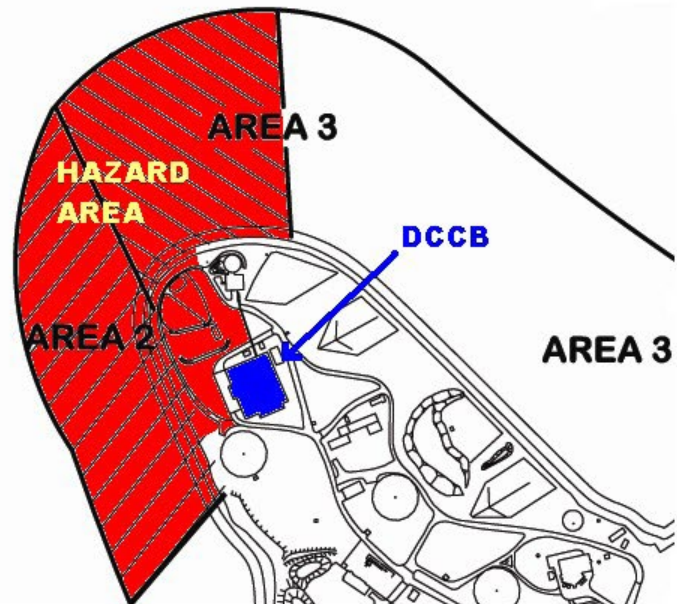
Cheers!

Dr. Will Black – Kwaj Eyecare



Chenega will be conducting a small arms range on 20 Aug. 2025 from 0800hrs to 1200hrs.

Please observe the **RED FLAG** hazard area. If you have any questions, contact CPT Johnson at 480-9046.



Remember the 3-R's of UXO Safety!



RECOGNIZE



RETREAT



REPORT

Unexploded ordnance are munitions that fail to detonate during live fire training. They are **extremely dangerous** and could explode if tampered with, even though the Kwajalein ordnance is 80-years-old.

NEVER touch UXO and report the location of **ANY** suspected UXO to the UXO Team **IMMEDIATELY** at:

Phone: 480-1550/1433

Email: Darren.r.Wheeldon.ctr@army.mil



KSC Women's Dive Month BINGO Challenge

 **Dates:** August 1–31, 2025 | **Submission Deadline:** September 2

How It Works:

- Pick up your Bingo Card at the Kwajalein Dive Center
- Complete fun dive-related tasks in any order
- Mark off tasks and verify with photo + buddy initials
- Submit photos via Facebook (#KSCWomensDiveDay) or email kwajaleinclubnewsletter@gmail.com



Prize Drawing:

- One BINGO = 1 Entry
- Blackout = 3 Entries
- Drawings at the September KSC Meeting



Kwajalein Scuba Club: Women's Dive Day 2025



 **Date:** Monday, August 18, 2025

 **Splash Time:** 3:30 PM

 **Location:** Emon Beach

 **Format:** Diver's Choice (within safety limits)

 **Cookout** at Emon A-Frame – KSC provides hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks

 **Bring a side** to share & BYOB

 **Tank Delivery:** Email christywag@yahoo.com by Friday, August 15

 **Volunteers Needed:** Grill Masters for the cookout!

WEEKLY TROPICAL WEATHER THREAT OUTLOOK

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

Discussion:

For the first half of August, the weather station recorded 1.68 inches of rain about 2.68 inches below normal for the month. So far in 2025, we have only received about 33 inches of precipitation, which is more than 12.5 inches below normal for the year. Kwajalein Atoll remains in a moderate drought. There will be increased shower coverage through the evening due to speed convergence of the winds along with ENE-E-ESE troughing in the direction of the winds. Look for another bounce in shower coverage on the second half of Saturday through the first half of Sunday due to troughing in the winds. Expect an augmented shot at shower coverage in about a week as well. The thunderstorm risk will get the best boost on the second half of Saturday through Sunday morning with the troughing and slightly better shear conditions. For the overnight, the vertical shear will be a bit high, but there are some decent upper-level conditions to assist in thunderstorm development to our north. There were no thunderstorm days over the last seven days. A thunderstorm day is defined as an "in situ" lightning strike within five miles of the weather station or thunder

heard. The Madden/Julian Oscillation (MJO) remains quite well established globally. It is currently negative for the RMI, which has a repressive effect on shower growth, but will return to its positive phase, favoring precipitation coverage by the end of the month. It will also bring about constructive interference and enhance tropical cyclone development for the western Pacific by the end of the month. The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) is becoming more well established for the next few days, approaching the central RMI from the south, and will help bring our shower coverage back up some. The El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is in ENSO-neutral conditions as a whole. There has been a recent episode of cooler than normal sea-surface temperatures (SST) between the RMI and the Date Line. This along with the negative MJO are the reason for the now drier than normal August.

Tropical Cyclones:

None for the RMI. We are now in the tropical cyclone season for the western Pacific and entering the peak of the season as we move into the second half of August. Look for a slightly higher chances of tropical cyclone development for the western Pacific

as we approach September first.

Damaging West Winds / Westerly Swell:

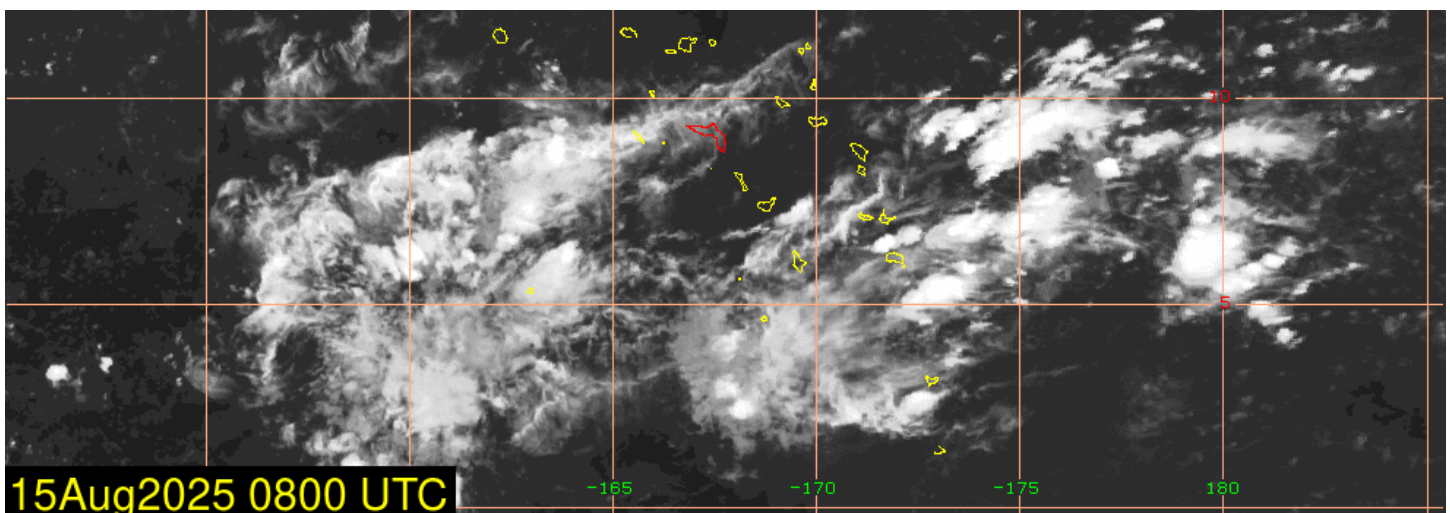
Low risk: Eastern Micronesia and the RMI are expected to be east-northeast to east-southeast trade wind dominant.

Swell / Tide Inundation for Kwajalein Atoll and Wake Island:

We are waning toward a half-moon on the 16th and a neap tide situation. All high tides will be below four feet until the 21st. This is the time of the year when we see higher swells affecting the south side of the island due to powerful winter storm transiting between Australia and Antarctica. Winds: today represents the end of doldrum level winds for the next few days, as a strengthening Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to our south steepens the pressure gradient between itself and higher-pressure regions to the north. Tomorrow and Saturday are looking at ENE-E-ESE winds between 11 and 16 knots with some gusts possible to the upper teens. When the winds are out of the ESE, they will be a bit lighter at about 10 knots. On Monday, expect the winds to come back down to the mid to upper single digits. Gusty outflow winds are possible

as a result of heavy showers just off to the east for short periods. There is low chance that a Small Craft Advisory (SCA) could be issued on the open lagoon for a short period during any strong showers just to the east of the lagoon. High Surf Advisory (HSA) conditions are not expected for the next seven days. Look for a bump in the ENE swells from tropical cyclone activity to the southeast of Hawai'i in the early morning of the 16th for a short period to 5-8 ft.

Purpose: This weekly briefing is delivered Thursday mornings to island leadership. The intention of this briefing is to provide situational awareness of weather events that may interrupt operations and transportation around Kwajalein, to/from Hawaii and Guam, and in the Wake vicinity. The main threat assessed in this brief is existing and potential development of tropical cyclone activity. This brief also provides an outlook of abnormal winds, sea state, and precipitation guidance for next 7 days around the Kwajalein Atoll. The distribution list will also receive updates on any developing tropical cyclone activity in the Kwajalein region that occur between the weekly outlook product. ▴



Now Available by Appointment...

PASSPORT PHOTO SERVICES

Located on the 2nd floor of Bldg. 805 on Kwajalein. When taking your photo, remember the following guidance for a successful shoot:

- Directly face the camera without tilting your head.
- Have a neutral facial expression with both eyes open and mouth closed.
- Take off your eyeglasses, headphones or wireless hands-free device.
- Do not wear a uniform, clothing that looks like a uniform, or camouflage.
- Remove hats or head coverings or submit a signed statement or doctor's note that says you must wear it for religious or medical purposes.

To schedule an appointment,
contact IMD/AVD personnel at:

KwajaleinHourglass@gov2x.com



PASSPORT



*United States
of America*



WEATHER

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

WEATHER DISCUSSION

A trade wind trough moves through Kwajalein Atoll to end the week and start the weekend, bringing increased shower activity and wind speeds along with it. This trough, driven by the redeveloped Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), will bring favorable conditions for deep convection, heavy rain, strong gusts, and potential thunderstorms. Shower activity should begin tapering off after midnight Saturday. Sunday morning could see a bump in shower coverage as a weaker atmospheric wave moves through the atoll, but conditions should begin to dry out during the late

morning hours, and winds will slacken to the upper single digits. By Monday, the ITCZ is expected to become fragmented and retreat southward, allowing a drier pattern and lighter winds to begin the work week.

SUNDAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers and a possible stray thunderstorm. Winds ENE-ESE at 7-12 knots with higher gusts possible near showers.

MONDAY

Mostly sunny with stray showers. Winds NE-E 9-14 knots with higher gusts possible near showers.

NEXT WEEK

Mostly dry conditions will remain over

the atoll to begin the workweek as the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) becomes fragmented and moves out of the area. Winds to start the week will remain out of the northeast in the upper single digits. Winds will become light and variable by mid-week, and pleasant conditions will persist. By Friday into Saturday, a modest atmospheric wave will its way toward the atoll, bringing increased winds and showers for the tail end of the workweek into next weekend. ▼



SUN-MOON-TIDES

	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
SUNDAY	6:41 a.m. 7:05 p.m.	12:31 a.m. 1:34 p.m.	9:37 a.m. 2.2' 10:58 p.m. 3.0'	3:57 a.m. 1.1' 3:34 p.m. 1.0'
MONDAY	6:41 a.m. 7:05 p.m.	1:28 a.m. 2:37 p.m.	12:21 p.m. 1.9'	6:33 a.m. 1.1' 5:47 p.m. 1.2'
TUESDAY	6:41 a.m. 7:04 p.m.	2:29 a.m. 3:39 p.m.	1:04 a.m. 3.2' 2:13 p.m. 2.3'	8:14 a.m. 0.6' 7:42 p.m. 0.9'
WEDNESDAY	6:41 a.m. 7:04 p.m.	3:32 a.m. 4:38 p.m.	2:18 a.m. 3.6' 3:03 p.m. 2.7'	9:04 a.m. 0.2' 8:42 p.m. 0.5'
THURSDAY	6:41 a.m. 7:03 p.m.	4:32 a.m. 5:31 p.m.	3:07 a.m. 4.0' 3:39 p.m. 3.1'	9:40 a.m. -0.2' 9:25 p.m. 0.0'
FRIDAY	6:41 a.m. 7:03 p.m.	5:30 a.m. 6:20 p.m.	3:46 a.m. 4.3' 4:10 p.m. 3.5'	10:11 a.m. -0.5' 10:01 p.m. -0.3'
AUGUST 23	6:41 a.m. 7:02 p.m.	6:23 a.m. 7:03 p.m.	4:19 a.m. 4.5' 4:39 p.m. 3.8'	10:40 a.m. -0.6' 10:34 p.m. -0.5'

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ISLAND LIFE AND ARMY REGULATIONS, PLEASE CALL THE COMMANDER'S HOTLINE AT 480-1098. FOLLOW THE USAG-KA FACEBOOK PAGE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION AND UPDATES REGARDING SAFETY INFORMATION, EVENTS, AND OFFICIAL COMMAND ACTIVITIES.

Until Next Week!

